



USAID/Food By Prescription



Update

January– March 2014

Private, public organizations recognized for ES, Back to Work activities

Private and public enterprises involved in Economic Strengthening (ES) and Back to Work activities recognized.

In series of review meetings conducted in six regions on the status of ES and Back to Work activities, the organizations were recognized for discharging their social responsibilities by creating job opportunities for beneficiaries of USAID/FBP program so that they would not revert to malnourishment.

USAID/FBP facilitated the review meetings in Tigray, Amhara, Addis Ababa, SNNP and East and West Oromia regions attended by representatives of the organizations and Implementing Partners.

The review meeting is mainly aimed at assessing and ensuring the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the various ES and Back to

Work activities that has been carried out in the regions in the past six months.

It also reviewed the accomplishments and progress of the respective Implementing Partners, working in collaboration with the regional health bureau, FBP NACS service providing health facilities, and private/public organizations.

The performance varies according to the context of the regions since some have limited number of private and public enterprises to absorb the beneficiaries. There were also challenges in convincing some private firms which also was time taking.

The review meeting focused on areas for improvement and potential challenges to the ES and Back to Work Initiatives. It also evaluated the effectiveness of the activities of the Town-Level ES advisory committee as well as the need for a smooth transition of ownership and responsibility of the ES initiative from USAID/FBP and assured its alignment with major objectives and strategies of the USAID/FBP ES and Back to Work Initiatives.



Handing over certificate of recognition in Bahir Dar



Some of the participants of review meeting in Amhara Region

USAID/FBP compiles study on RUTF, RUSF misuse

The qualitative assessment of the study on the extent of misuse of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and its contributing factors in Ethiopia is finalized. The assessment used beneficiaries and health service providers as informants.

The preliminary findings indicated five main RUTF and RUSF misuse practices at individual clients, households, healthcare facilities and community levels. These practices are selling, sharing, leakage, lack of compliance of beneficiaries to the prescribed therapeutic foods and non-compliance with prescribing, dispensing and storage protocols.

It also identified factors contributing to misuse of the products and these includes household food insecurity and lack of awareness of clients and community on malnutrition and its intervention. Insufficient knowledge of the treatment protocol by health providers, organoleptic properties of the products and side effects and supply pattern are also among the identified factors.

The study recommends framework of actions to contain misuse use of the lifesaving products. The report being finalized and will be shared to relevant stakeholders with various means.

Team Visit HIV/AIDS Care, Support Programs Funded by PEPFAR

A team drawn from United States Aid for International Development (USAID), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) which leads implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), visited health facilities in four regions in March.

The visit was aimed at assessing the situation of transitioning HIV/AIDS, care and support programs of ICAP, World Vision and Food by Prescription to the government. It will also recommend best ways for the sustainable integration of the services after transition of the programs.

The team accompanied by senior staff from USAID/FBP visited selected health facilities in Addis Ababa, East Oromia, Amhara and SNNP as well as discussed with representatives of Federal Ministry of Health, HAPCO and respective regional health bureaus. Upon completion of the visit the team de-briefed FMOH& HAPCO.

The health facilities visited include Yekatit Hospital, Bole 17 Health Center, Adama, Modjo HC, Felege Hiwot Hospital, Debre Tabor Hospital, Woerta HC, Bahir Dar HC and Han Health Center, Hawasa Referral Hospital and Adare Hospital.



Visit by the team to Bole 17 Health Center, Addis Ababa

Sustainable skills to more than 900 health professionals on NACS

Capacity building training was provided to 900 health workers during the second quarter of the budget year in the seven operational regions of USAID/FBP in an effort to develop sustainable skills of health workers who will be involved in delivering Nutritional Assessment, Counseling and Support (NACS).

The capacity building trainings were for 511 health professionals providing NACS services and 144 logistics staff working in pharmaceutical store and dispensers.

Some 144 data clerks and 123 community health workers also received trainings relevant to their respective roles.

The trainees were from newly started facilities as well as from existing facilities that needed gap filling due to turnover of staff.



NACS training by Addis Ababa Region for health workers in Bishoftu

. Data auditing , (TSS) in three regions

Data Auditing and Technical Supportive Supervision (TSS) was conducted during the month of March in Tigray, Amhara and East Oromia regions in newly started, existing and transitioned facilities by teams drawn from Country Office and respective regions.

The data auditing activities focused among others on assessing quality of data and strengthening documentation both at health facility and regional level. The TSS is aimed at assessing the performance of NACS in line with the protocols as well as arrival of the new ART, Pre ART registers and client follow up form in the region.

Some of the gaps observed and addressed with both data auditing and TSS include; not regularly updated beneficiaries status on registration book, clients are not discharged as per the national protocol, discrepancy between *reported* and *counted* numbers esp. for beneficiaries who 'graduated' and 'defaulted' from the program.

The activities also recognized that transitioned health facilities are still in need of technical support to improve the quality of the service, data recording and reporting system.

Strategizing the TSS for new and existing and transitioned facilities with thorough examination of the quality of NACS services to ensure its implementation as per the protocol and standards was among the highlights of the report of the data auditing and TSS.



TSS key to capacitate health facilities NACS delivery

Few questions to Libemogne Alelign

The Debre Markos Hospital is providing Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support for HIV positive people according to national protocol. Libemogne Alelign is one of the beneficiaries of NACS enrolled into the program and answers few questions.

Your age and family: I am 28 years old and single mother of 7 years old child.

How do you come to know your status of malnourishment? It was last October 2013, I was seriously ill and forced to stop to work as a daily laborer to win bread for myself and my daughter. A neighbor took me to Debre Markos Hospital. I was tested for HIV/AIDS and found to be positive. My weight was also only 34 kg against 1.57 mts of my height.

What happened then? After getting counseling from case adherence workers, I was prescribed to take ART and plumpy' nut at same time. Even if my situation was very critical according to the health workers, the counseling I got convinced me that I will regain my health. When I was in the second month, I gained about 9 kgs.

What is your current status? I am healthy; I am weighing 51 kgm – gaining a total of 17 kgs. Resumed working as a daily laborer. This was after taking the therapeutic food for five months. I was referred to Bezawit, an association of Positive Women in Debre Markos town and it is a month now since I have graduated and working as volunteer in the association.

How would you see your future? I am very much happy for regaining my health. Hopefully, I will get employment through the association to better support myself and send my daughter to school.



53 Health Facilities assessed for transition

The third round handover assessment of health facilities were undertaken during the end of second quarter of the budget year. The assessment was carried out with joint team drawn from respective regional health bureaus, USAID/FBP country office and regional staff.

A total of 53 health facilities were assessed in which 7 from East Oromia, 28 from West Oromia, 6 from Tigray and 12 from Addis Ababa regions. The outcome of the assessment is yet to be determined.

Since mid 2013, a sum of 193 health facilities have been transitioned to the government.